

What is claimed is:

1. A method for conveying an order from a user to a supplier, said user inputting said order into an access device in communication with an ordering system via an electronic communication system, said ordering system conveying said order to said supplier, said method comprising:

electronically providing to said user a locally searchable data set comprising supplier information; and

electronically receiving an order from said user.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said electronically providing comprises providing supplier information selected from a group consisting of:

- a. name information;
- b. address information;
- c. service information;
- d. hours of operation

information;

- e. catalog information;
- f. critique information;
- g. parking information;
- h. other information; and
- i. a combination of at least two of a-h.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said electronically providing comprises electronically providing food supplier information selected from a group consisting of:

- 5                   a. name information;
- b. address information;
- c. cuisine information;
- d. delivery information;
- e. take-out information;
- 10                 f. hours of operation
- information;
- g. menu information;
- h. attire information;
- i. parking information;
- 15                 j. atmosphere information;
- k. review information;
- l. other information; and
- m. a combination of at least two of a-l.

- 20                 4. The method of claim 1, wherein:  
                  when said user has a location, said electronically providing comprises receiving an indication of said location; and  
                  said electronically providing further  
25                 comprises providing supplier information corresponding to suppliers located within a preselected distance from said location.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising electronically providing to said user a locally searchable catalog comprising catalog information.

5 6. The method of claim 5, wherein said catalog information comprises information selected from a group consisting of:

- a. name information;
- b. identification number
- 10 information;
- c. size information;
- d. color information;
- e. material information;
- f. inventory information;
- 15 g. customization information; and
- h. a combination of at least two of a-g.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein, when said supplier is a food supplier, said catalog information comprises information selected from a group consisting of:

- 25 a. entree information;
- b. side dish information;
- c. beverage information;
- d. dessert information;
- e. specials information;

f. at least one option  
corresponding to any of a-e;  
g. catering information;  
h. grocery information;  
5 i. graphic data corresponding to  
any of a-i; and  
j. a combination of at least two  
of a-i.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein:  
10 said electronically receiving an order  
comprises receiving an electronic indication of at  
least one accounting code from said user, said at least  
one accounting code selected from a group consisting  
of:  
15 a. a project code;  
b. a client code;  
c. a matter code;  
d. an expense code;  
e. a house account code;  
20 f. a user identification code;  
g. an employee identification  
code; and  
h. a combination of at least two  
of a-g; and  
25 each of said at least one accounting  
code indicates a debit for at least a portion of said  
order.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein:  
said order comprises at least one amount  
selected from a group consisting of:  
a. a total amount; and  
5 b. a sub-total amount; and  
said electronically receiving an order  
comprises receiving an electronic indication of at  
least two accounting codes from said user, each  
corresponding debit being selected from a group  
10 consisting of:  
a. a dollar amount;  
b. a fraction of said total  
amount;  
c. a percentage of said total  
15 amount; and  
d. a fraction of a sub-total  
amount; and  
e. a percentage of a sub-total  
amount.

20 10. A method for transferring catalog  
information and order information between consumers and  
suppliers using an electronic communication network,  
said method comprising:  
qualifying at least one consumer entity;  
25 distributing catalog information to at  
least one consumer entity, said catalog information  
received from at least one supplier;

receiving order information from at least one qualified consumer entity; and delivering at least a portion of said order information to one of said at least one supplier.

5                 11. The method of claim 10, wherein:  
                       said method further comprises providing a first format to said at least one consumer entity;  
                       and

10                 said receiving comprises receiving said order information in said first format.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

                       providing a second format to said at least one supplier; and  
15                 receiving said catalog information in said format.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein:  
                       said qualifying comprises providing said at least one consumer entity with an encrypted key;  
20                 said receiving comprises receiving said encrypted key; and  
                       said receiving further comprises verifying that said encrypted key was received from a qualified consumer entity.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein said receiving comprises receiving order information from a user.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said 5 receiving order information from a user comprises receiving order information from said user via a web site.

16. A method for selectively replacing content in a display of a web page, said web page 10 having content displayed using a browser running on an access device, said access device communicating with a web server via an electronic communication network, said method comprising:

storing data from said server in a frame 15 in said browser; and

replacing at least a portion of said content with at least a portion of said data.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said 20 storing comprises polling said server for new data.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein:  
said replacing comprises replacing said data with said new data; and  
transferring at least a portion of said 25 new data to said display.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein said storing comprises using a browser automatic refresh function.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein said  
5 method further comprises excluding said second frame from said display.

21. The method of claim 16, wherein said storing comprises transferring a web page from said server, said web page comprising new data.

10           22. The method of claim 16, further comprising transferring at least one function for use by a user of said access device, said function selected from a group consisting of:

15           a. a customer service function;  
              b. an order tracking function;  
              c. an order fulfillment function;

and

              d. a combination of at least two of a-c.

20           23. A method for selectively replacing content in a display of a web page, said web page having content displayed using a browser running on an access device, said access device communicating with a food ordering system web server via an electronic  
25 communication network, said method comprising:

storing data from said server in a frame  
in said browser; and

                  replacing at least a portion of said  
content with at least a portion of said data.

5

24. The method of claim 23, wherein said  
storing comprises polling said server for new data.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein:  
                  said replacing comprises replacing said  
10 data with said new data; and  
                  transferring at least a portion of said  
new data to said display.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein said  
15 storing comprises using a browser automatic refresh  
function.

27. The method of claim 23, wherein said  
method further comprises excluding said second frame  
from said display.

20              28. The method of claim 23, wherein said  
storing comprises transferring a web page from said  
server, said web page comprising new data.

25              29. A method for selecting food suppliers  
for a user of a food supplies ordering system, said  
user having a location, said ordering system using an

electronic communications network, each of said suppliers having a geographic address, said method comprising:

defining a region;

5                   selecting at least one food supplier having an address substantially inside said region.

30.   The method of claim 29 wherein:  
               said region has a border; and  
               said selecting comprises selecting at  
10   least one food supplier having an address that is  
               substantially on said border.

31.   The method of claim 29 wherein said defining comprises choosing at least one border for said region, each of said at least one border being no  
15   more than an identified distance from said location.

32.   The method of claim 31 wherein said defining further comprises identifying said location using latitude and longitude coordinates.

33.   The method of claim 32 wherein said  
20   identifying comprises identifying said location using geodetic latitude and longitude coordinates.

34.   The method of claim 29 wherein said selecting comprises:

converting said address into geodetic coordinates; and

selecting said supplier if said coordinates are within said region.

5                 35. A method for determining if an entity lies within an area, said entity having a location and a zone, said location lying within said zone, said zone lying partially inside said area and partially outside said area, said method comprising:

10                 identifying a polygon defined by an area of intersection between said zone and said area; and  
                       determining if said location lies within said polygon.

15                 36. The method of claim 35 wherein said identifying a polygon comprises:

                       identifying vertices of said polygon;  
and  
                       obtaining geodetic coordinates of said  
20 vertices.

37. The method of claim 36 wherein said identifying a polygon further comprises approximating said coordinates using a fixed number of significant figures.

25                 38. The method of claim 36 wherein said identifying a polygon further comprises converting said

coordinates into base-n values, wherein n is a number greater than 10.

39. A method for sorting food suppliers for  
5 a user of a food supplies ordering system, said user having a first location, said ordering system using an electronic communications network, each of said suppliers having a corresponding additional location, said method comprising:

10 calculating a distance between said first location and each of said additional locations; and

ranking said suppliers by said distances, wherein said ranking is selected from a  
15 group consisting of:

- a. an ascending order; and
- b. a descending order.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein said ranking comprises ranking only suppliers having a  
20 corresponding distance no greater than a preselected limit.

41. A method for indicating that a supplier delivers to a user of an ordering system, said user communicating with said system via an electronic  
25 communication network, said supplier having a delivery area, said user having a location and a zone, said location within said zone, said method comprising:

determining if said zone is within said area; and

recording an indication selected from a group consisting of:

5 a. an indication that said supplier delivers to said user if said zone is within said area; and

b. an indication that said supplier does not deliver to said user if said zone is  
10 not within said area.

42. The method of claim 41, further comprising, if said zone is partially inside of said area and partially outside of said area:

identifying a polygon defined by an area  
15 of intersection between said zone and said area; and  
determining if said location lies within  
said polygon.

43. The method of claim 42, further comprising recording an indication selected from a group consisting of:

a. an indication that said supplier delivers to said user if said location lies within said polygon; and

b. an indication that said supplier does not deliver to said user if said location does not lie within said polygon.

44. A method for managing orders placed by users of an on-line food supplies ordering system, said users associating codes with said orders, each of said users using an access device to place at least one 5 order via an electronic communications network, said method comprising:

electronically obtaining at least one code from at least one user, said at least one code corresponding to said at least one order; and

10                 indexing said at least one order using said at least one code for subsequent identification of said at least one order using said at least one code.

45. The method of claim 44, further comprising:

15                 electronically obtaining an instruction from a second user to group said at least one order into at least one group comprising orders having an attribute that satisfies at least one grouping criterion; and

20                 grouping said at least one order in accordance with said instruction, wherein said at least one grouping criterion is selected from a group consisting of:

- a. an accounting code;
- b. an accounting code range;
- c. a user name;
- d. a user email address;
- e. a user identification number;

- f. an employee name;
- g. an order date minimum;
- h. an order date maximum;
- i. an order date range;
- 5 j. an order time minimum;
- k. an order time maximum;
- l. an order time range;
- m. an order identification number
- minimum;
- 10 n. an order identification number
- maximum;
- o. an order identification number
- range;
- 15 p. an order total amount minimum;
- q. an order total amount maximum;
- r. an order total amount range;
- s. an order tip amount minimum;
- t. an order tip amount maximum;
- u. an order tip amount range;
- 20 v. an order adjustment amount
- minimum;
- w. an order adjustment amount
- maximum;
- x. an order adjustment amount
- 25 range; and

y. a combination of at least two  
of a-x.

46. The method of claim 45, further  
5 comprising communicating to said second user at least  
one attribute of each order included in said at least  
one group.

47. The method of claim 45, further  
comprising communicating to said second user order  
10 information chosen from a group consisting of:

- a. a supplier name;
- b. supplier contact information;
- c. a restaurant name;
- d. restaurant contact information;
- 15 e. order content;
- f. an electronic receipt; and
- g. any combination of at least two  
of a-f.

48. The method of claim 44, further  
20 comprising testing validity of said at least one code  
using at least one indication of validity, each code  
having a corresponding indication of validity only if  
said code is deemed valid.

49. The method of claim 48, wherein said  
25 testing comprises receiving said at least one indication  
of validity from a second user.

50. The method of claim 48, further comprising warning a second user if one of said at least one code does not have a corresponding indication of validity.

5               51. The method of claim 44, further comprising screening said at least one order for violations of at least one accounting rule, said at least one accounting rule requiring that an accounting criterion be satisfied, said accounting criterion  
10 chosen from a group consisting of:

- a. an accounting code;
- b. an accounting code range;
- c. a user name;
- d. a user email address;
- e. a user identification number;
- f. an employee name;
- g. an order date minimum;
- h. an order date maximum;
- i. an order date range;
- j. an order time minimum;
- k. an order time maximum;
- l. an order time range;
- m. an order identification number  
minimum;
- n. an order identification number  
maximum;
- o. an order identification number  
range;

- p. an order total amount minimum;
- q. an order total amount maximum;
- r. an order total amount range;

- s. an order tip amount minimum;
- t. an order tip amount maximum;
- u. an order tip amount range;

- v. an order adjustment amount

minimum;

- w. an order adjustment amount

maximum;

- x. an order adjustment amount

range; and

- y. a combination of at least two  
of a-x.

15

52. The method of claim 51, wherein said screening comprises receiving said at least one accounting rule from a second user.

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comprising warning a second user one of said at least one order violates one of said at least one rule.

54. A method for using an electronic communication network for ordering a customized food item from a supplier, wherein a user selects said item

and at least one option for customizing said item, said method comprising:

electronically receiving an indication of said at least one option from said user via a user access device;

displaying a graphical representation of said item as modified by said at least one option using said device; and

transmitting an order describing said item as modified by said at least one option to said supplier.

55. The method of claim 54, wherein said displaying comprises updating a display of said item to show said item as modified by said at least one option each time said user selects an option.

56. The method of claim 54, wherein, when said food item is a pizza, said at least one option is chosen from a group consisting of:

- 20           a. a dough option;
- b. a cheese option;
- c. a sauce option;
- d. a topping option;
- e. a crust option; and
- 25           f. a pizza size option.

57. The method of claim 56, wherein, when said option is a dough option, said electronically

receiving comprises receiving an indication of at least one attribute of said dough option, said at least one attribute selected from a group consisting of:

- 5           a. plain dough;
- b. whole wheat dough;
- c. sourdough;
- d. pan-style;
- e. deep-dish style; and
- f. a combination of at least two

10   of a-e.

58. The method of claim 56, wherein, when said option is a cheese option, said electronically receiving comprises receiving an indication of at least one attribute of said cheese option, said at least one attribute selected from a group consisting of:

- 15           a. a cheese amount;
- b. a cheese type; and
- c. a combination of a and b.

59. The method of claim 56, wherein, when said option is a sauce option, said electronically receiving comprises receiving an indication of at least one attribute of said sauce option, said at least one attribute selected from a group consisting of:

- 25           a. a sauce amount;
- b. a sauce type; and
- c. a combination of a and b.

60. The method of claim 56, wherein, when said option is a crust option, said electronically receiving comprises receiving an indication of at least one attribute of said crust option, said at least one 5 attribute selected from a group consisting of:

- a. soft; and
- b. crispy.

61. The method of claim 56, wherein, when said option is a topping option, said electronically 10 receiving comprises receiving an indication of at least one attribute of said topping option, said at least one attribute selected from a group consisting of:

- a. a pizza coverage fraction;
- b. a topping amount;
- c. a topping type; and
- d. a combination of at least two 15 of a-d.

62. The method of claim 56, wherein, when said option is a pizza size option, said electronically 20 receiving comprises receiving an indication of at least one attribute of said pizza size option, said at least one attribute selected from a group consisting of:

- a. small;
- b. medium; and
- c. large. 25

63. The method of claim 54, wherein said displaying comprises showing a graphical representation of said food item in a cooked state.

64. The method of claim 56, wherein said transmitting comprises transmitting a graphical representation of at least one layer of said pizza, each of said at least one layer corresponding to one of said at least one option, a superimposition of all of said at least one layer corresponding to said pizza as modified by said at least one option, whereby a pizza chef can assemble said pizza in a layer-by-layer fashion.

65. The method of claim 56, wherein, when said food item is a pizza, said electronically receiving comprises:

electronically receiving an indication to divide said pizza into more than one section;

electronically receiving an indication of a selection of at least one of said more than one section; and

electronically receiving at least one instruction to apply one of said at least one option to said selection.

66. The method of claim 65, wherein said electronically receiving an instruction comprises:

displaying a hotlink comprising a first graphical representation of said at least one option; and

displaying a second graphical

5 representation of one of said at least one option when  
said user selects said option, said second graphical  
display replacing a prior graphical display  
corresponding to a cursor of said access device.

67. The method of claim 66, wherein said

10 electronically receiving an instruction further comprises displaying a third graphical representation of said option when said user positions said cursor on said selection, said third graphical representation showing said option disposed in said selection.

15                 68. A method for placing a group order with  
a supplier, said group order comprising a host order  
selected by a host and at least one guest order  
selected by at least one guest, said at least one guest  
selected by said host, said host order and said at  
20 least one guest order input into an ordering system via  
at least one access device, said group order  
transmitted to said supplier by said ordering system,  
said at least one access device and said ordering  
system in electronic communication via an electronic  
25 communication network, said method comprising:

forming a group order from said host order and said at least one guest order; and

transmitting said group order to said supplier.

69. The method of claim 68, further comprising:

5 electronically obtaining said host order;

electronically obtaining said at least one guest order.

70. The method of claim 69, further 10 comprising:

in response to receiving said host order, generating an invitation for each guest specified by said host, said invitation inviting a respective guest to place a guest order; and

15 sending said invitation to each corresponding guest.

71. The method of claim 70, wherein said sending comprises sending an electronic invitation having a hotlink to an electronic form for placing said 20 guest order.

72. The method of claim 70, further comprising obtaining an RSVP from each of said at least one guest, said RSVP selected from a group consisting of:

25 a. an invitation acceptance;

- b. an invitation rejection; and
- c. an unconfirmed response.

73. The method of claim 72, further comprising communicating said RSVP to said host.

5               74. The method of claim 68, wherein said forming comprises communicating to said host an order status indication for each of said at least one guest, wherein said order status indication is chosen from a group consisting of:

10               

- a. order received; and
- b. order not received.

75. The method of claim 74, wherein said forming further comprises receiving an indication from said host to transmit said group order to said  
15 supplier.

76. A machine-readable data storage medium encoded with a set of machine-executable instructions for carrying out, with a machine capable of executing said instructions, a method for automatically placing a  
20 group order with a supplier, said group order comprising a host order selected by a host and at least one guest order selected by at least one guest, said at least one guest selected by said host, said host order and said at least one guest order input into an  
25 ordering system via at least one access device, said

group order transmitted to said supplier by a server,  
said supplier receiving said group order using an  
access device, said access devices and said server in  
electronic communication with each other via an  
5 electronic communication network, said method  
comprising:

electronically obtaining said host order  
and said at least one guest order;  
forming a group order from said host  
10 order and said at least one guest order; and  
transmitting said group order to said  
supplier.

77. A method for reducing the risk of bad  
debt, said debt accruing to a provider of an on-line  
15 ordering system, said service conveying orders to said  
supplier, at least one of said orders comprising a  
price and a payment instruction instructing a financial  
institution to remit funds corresponding to said price,  
said method comprising:

20 submitting said payment instruction to  
said financial institution;  
receiving a first amount from said  
financial institution, said first amount equal to said  
funds reduced by a second amount; and  
25 remitting to said supplier a third  
amount, said third amount equal to said funds reduced  
by a fourth amount, said fourth amount comprising at  
least said commission.

78. The method of claim 77, wherein:  
said second amount comprises a first  
service charge;  
said fourth amount comprises a second  
5 service charge; and  
said method further comprises:  
waiting a predetermined period of  
time before said remitting; and  
investing said first amount during  
10 said period, said investing offsetting a loss if said  
first service charge exceeds said second service  
charge.

79. The method of claim 77, wherein:  
said second amount comprises a volume  
15 discounted service charge;  
said fourth amount comprises a second  
service charge; and  
said method further comprises:  
selecting said second service charge  
20 such that said second service charge is less than said  
volume discounted service charge, whereby at least a  
portion of a benefit of a volume discount is passed  
from said service provider to said supplier.

80. A display comprising:  
25 an information feature; and  
an ordering bar, wherein the ordering  
bar comprises 4 ordering tabs.

81. The display of claim 80, wherein one of the ordering tabs comprises means to receive a location indication.

82. The display of claim 80, wherein one of  
5 the ordering tabs comprises means to receive indications of selected suppliers.

83. The display of claim 80, wherein one of the ordering tabs comprises means to receive indications of desired products.

10 84. The display of claim 80, wherein one of the ordering tabs comprises means to receive indications of confirmation of an order.

85. The display of claim 81, wherein the information feature shows a list of at least one  
15 supplier following receipt of a location indication.

86. The display of claim 82, wherein the information feature shows catalog information following receipt of a selected supplier indication.

87. The display of claim 83, wherein the  
20 information feature shows a representation of an order following receipt of at least one desired product indication.

88. A system for conveying an order from a user to a supplier, comprising:

means for electronically providing to said user a locally searchable data set comprising  
5 supplier information; and

means for electronically receiving an order from said user,

10 said means for electronically providing and said means for electronically receiving in communication via an electronic communication system.

89. The system of claim 88, wherein said means for electronically providing comprises means for providing supplier information selected from a group  
15 consisting of:

- a. name information;
- b. address information;
- c. service information;
- d. hours of operation
- 20 e. catalog information;
- f. critique information;
- g. parking information;
- h. other information; and
- i. a combination of at least two  
25 of a-h.

90. The system of claim 88, wherein said means for electronically providing comprises means for

electronically providing food supplier information selected from a group consisting of:

- a. name information;
- b. address information;
- c. cuisine information;
- d. delivery information;
- e. take-out information;
- f. hours of operation

information;

- g. menu information;
- h. attire information;
- i. parking information;
- j. atmosphere information;
- k. review information;
- l. other information; and
- m. a combination of at least two of a-l.

91. The system of claim 88, wherein:  
when said user has a location, said  
means for electronically providing comprises means for receiving an indication of said location; and  
said means for electronically providing further comprises means for providing supplier information corresponding to suppliers located within a preselected distance from said location.

92. The system of claim 88, further comprising means for electronically providing to said

user a locally searchable catalog comprising catalog information,

said means for electronically providing to said user a locally searchable catalog in communication with said means for electronically receiving and said means for electronically providing to said user a locally searchable data set via an electronic communication system.

93. The system of claim 92, wherein said catalog information comprises information selected from a group consisting of:

- a. name information;
- b. identification number information;
- c. size information;
- d. color information;
- e. material information;
- f. inventory information;
- g. customization information; and
- h. a combination of at least two of a-g.

94. The system of claim 92, wherein, when said supplier is a food supplier, said catalog information comprises information selected from a group consisting of:

- a. entree information;
- b. side dish information;

- c. beverage information;
- d. dessert information;
- e. specials information;
- f. at least one option

5 corresponding to any of a-e;

- g. catering information;
- h. grocery information;
- i. graphic data corresponding to

any of a-i; and

10 j. a combination of at least two  
of a-i.

95. The system of claim 88, wherein:  
said means for electronically receiving  
an order comprises means for receiving an electronic  
15 indication of at least one accounting code from said  
user, said at least one accounting code selected from a  
group consisting of:

- a. a project code;
- b. a client code;
- c. a matter code;
- d. an expense code;
- e. a house account code;
- f. a user identification code;
- g. an employee identification

20 25 code; and

- h. a combination of at least two  
of a-g; and

each of said at least one accounting code indicates a debit for at least a portion of said order.

96. The system of claim 95, wherein:

5                   said order comprises at least one amount selected from a group consisting of:

- a. a total amount; and
- b. a sub-total amount; and

10                  said means for electronically receiving an order comprises means for receiving an electronic indication of at least two accounting codes from said user, each corresponding debit being selected from a group consisting of:

- a. a dollar amount;
- b. a fraction of said total amount;
- c. a percentage of said total amount; and
- d. a fraction of a sub-total amount; and
- e. a percentage of a sub-total amount.

20                 97. A system for transferring catalog information and order information between consumers and suppliers, said system comprising:

25                 means for qualifying at least one consumer entity;

means for distributing catalog information to at least one consumer entity, said catalog information received from at least one supplier;

5                   means for receiving order information from at least one qualified consumer entity; and

                  means for delivering at least a portion of said order information to one of said at least one supplier,

10                  said means for qualifying, said means for distributing, and said means for receiving in communication via an electronic communication system.

98. The system of claim 97, wherein:

                  said system further comprises means for

15 providing a first format to said at least one consumer entity; and

                  said receiving comprises means for receiving said order information in said first format,

                  said means for providing a first format,

20                  said means for qualifying, said means for distributing, and said means for receiving in communication via an electronic communication system..

99. The system of claim 97, further comprising:

25                  means for providing a second format to said at least one supplier; and

means for receiving said catalog information in said format,

    said means for providing a second format  
    said means for receiving said catalog information, said  
5   means for qualifying, said means for distributing, and  
    said means for receiving order information in  
    communication via an electronic communication system.

100. The system of claim 97 wherein:

    said qualifying comprises means for  
10 providing said at least one consumer entity with an  
    encrypted key;

    said receiving comprises means for  
    receiving said encrypted key; and

    said receiving further comprises means  
15 for verifying that said encrypted key was received from  
    a qualified consumer entity,

    said means for receiving said encrypted  
    key, and said means for verifying that encrypted key  
    was received in communication via an electronic  
20 communication system.

101. The system of claim 97, wherein said  
    receiving comprises means for receiving order  
    information from a user.

102. The system of claim 101, wherein said  
25 receiving order information from a user comprises means

for receiving order information from said user via a web site.

103. A system for selectively replacing content in a display of a web page, comprising:

5 means for storing data from a web server in a frame in a web page having content displayed using a browser running on an access device; and

10 means for replacing, via an electronic communication network, at least a portion of said content with at least a portion of said data,

15 said means for storing and said means for replacing in communication via an electronic communication system.

104. The system of claim 103, wherein said means for storing comprises means for polling said server for new data.

105. The system of claim 104, wherein:

20 said means for replacing comprises means for replacing said data with said new data; and

means for transferring at least a portion of said new data to said display,

25 said means for replacing said data with said new data and said means for transferring in communication via an electronic communication system.

106. The system of claim 103, wherein said means for storing comprises means for using a browser automatic refresh function.

107. The system of claim 103, wherein said 5 system further comprises means for excluding said frame from said display,

                  said means for excluding, said means for storing and said means for replacing in communication via an electronic communication system.

10               108. The system of claim 103, wherein said means for storing comprises means for transferring a web page from said server, said web page comprising new data.

15               109. The system of claim 103, further comprising means for transferring at least one function for use by a user of said access device, said function selected from a group consisting of:

20               a. a customer service function;  
                  b. an order tracking function;  
                  c. an order fulfillment function;

and  
25               d. a combination of at least two of a-c;

                  said means for transferring, said means for storing and said means for replacing in communication via an electronic communication system.

110. A system for selecting food suppliers for a user of a food supplies ordering system, said user having a location, each of said suppliers having a geographic address, said system comprising:

5                   means for defining a region;  
                  means for selecting at least one food supplier having an address substantially inside said region,

10                  said means for defining and said means  
                  for selecting in communication via an electronic communication system.

111. The system of claim 110 wherein:  
                  said region has a border; and  
                  said means for selecting comprises means  
15                  for selecting at least one food supplier having an address that is substantially on said border.

112. The system of claim 110 wherein said means for defining comprises means for choosing at least one border for said region, each of said at least 20 one border being no more than an identified distance from said location.

113. The system of claim 112 wherein said means for defining further comprises means for identifying said location using latitude and longitude 25 coordinates,

said means for identifying and said  
means for choosing in communication via an electronic  
communication system.

114. The system of claim 113 wherein said  
5 means for identifying comprises means for identifying  
said location using geodetic latitude and longitude  
coordinates.

115. The system of claim 110 wherein said  
means for selecting comprises:

10               means for converting said address into  
geodetic coordinates; and

                  means for selecting said supplier if  
said coordinates are within said region,

15               said means for selecting said supplier  
and said means for converting in communication via an  
electronic communication system.

116. A system for determining if an entity  
having a location and a zone lies within an area  
comprising:

20               means for identifying a polygon defined  
by the intersection of a zone and an area, said zone  
lying partially inside said area and partially outside  
said area; and

                  means for determining if said location,  
25 which lies within said zone, lies within said polygon,

said means for identifying and said  
means for determining in communication via an  
electronic communication system.

5               117. The system of claim 116 wherein said  
means for identifying a polygon comprises:

                  means for identifying vertices of said  
polygon; and

10              means for obtaining geodetic coordinates  
of said vertices,

                  said means for identifying vertices and  
said means for obtaining in communication via an  
electronic communication system.

118. The system of claim 117 wherein said  
15 means for identifying a polygon further comprises means  
for approximating said coordinates using a fixed number  
of significant figures,

                  said means for approximating, said means  
for identifying vertices and said means for obtaining  
20 in communication via an electronic communication  
system.

119. The system of claim 117 wherein said  
means for identifying a polygon further comprises means  
for converting said coordinates into base-n values,  
25 wherein n is a number greater than 10,

                  said means for converting, said means  
for identifying vertices and said means for obtaining

in communication via an electronic communication system.

120. A system for sorting suppliers for a  
5 user of a supplies ordering system, comprising:

means for calculating a distance between  
a first location of said user and each of one or more  
additional locations of said suppliers; and

10 means for ranking said suppliers by said  
distances, wherein said ranking is selected from a  
group consisting of:

- a. an ascending order; and
- b. a descending order;

15 said means for calculating and said  
means for ranking in communication via an electronic  
communication system.

121. The system of claim 120, wherein said  
means for ranking comprises means for ranking only  
suppliers having a corresponding distance no greater  
20 than a preselected limit.

122. A system for indicating that a supplier  
delivers to a user of an ordering system, said supplier  
having a delivery area, said user having a location and  
a zone, said location within said zone, comprising:

25 first means for determining if said zone  
is within said area; and

means for recording an indication  
selected from a group consisting of:

- a. an indication that said supplier delivers to said user if said zone is within said area; and
- b. an indication that said supplier does not deliver to said user if said zone is not within said area,
  - said means for determining and said first means for recording in communication via an electronic communication system.

10                 123. The system of claim 122, further comprising, if said zone is partially inside of said area and partially outside of said area:

- means for identifying a polygon defined by the intersection of said zone and said area; and
- 15                 means for determining if said location lies within said polygon,
  - said means for determining if said zone is within said area, said first means for recording, said means for identifying, and said means for 20 determining if said location lies within said polygon in communication via an electronic communication system.

124. The system of claim 123, further comprising means for recording an indication selected from a group consisting of:

a. an indication that said supplier delivers to said user if said location lies within said polygon; and

b. an indication that said 5 supplier does not deliver to said user if said location does not lie within said polygon,

said second means for recording, said means for determining if said zone is within said area, said first means for recording, said means for 10 identifying, and said means for determining if said location lies within said polygon in communication via an electronic communication system.

125. A system for managing orders placed by users of an on-line food supplies ordering system, said 15 users associating codes with said orders, said system comprising:

means for electronically obtaining at least one code from at least one user, said at least one code corresponding to said at least one order; and 20 means for indexing said at least one order using said at least one code for subsequent identification of said at least one order using said at least one code,

said means for obtaining and said means 25 for indexing in communication via an electronic communication system.

126. The system of claim 125, further comprising:

means for electronically obtaining an instruction from a second user to group said at least 5 one order into at least one group comprising orders having an attribute that satisfies at least one grouping criterion; and

means for grouping said at least one order in accordance with said instruction, wherein said 10 at least one grouping criterion is selected from a group consisting of:

- a. an accounting code;
- b. an accounting code range;
- c. a user name;
- d. a user email address;
- e. a user identification number;
- f. an employee name;
- g. an order date minimum;
- h. an order date maximum;
- i. an order date range;
- j. an order time minimum;
- k. an order time maximum;
- l. an order time range;
- m. an order identification number

20

- n. an order identification number

25 minimum;

- maximum;
- o. an order identification number

range;

- p. an order total amount minimum;
- q. an order total amount maximum;
- r. an order total amount range;

- s. an order tip amount minimum;
- t. an order tip amount maximum;
- u. an order tip amount range;

- v. an order adjustment amount

minimum;

- w. an order adjustment amount

maximum;

- x. an order adjustment amount

range; and

- y. a combination of at least two  
of a-x,

15               said means for electronically obtaining at  
least one code, said means for indexing, said means for  
electronically obtaining an instruction, and said means  
for grouping in communication via an electronic  
communication system.

20

127. The system of claim 126, further  
comprising means for communicating to said second user  
at least one attribute of each order included in said  
at least one group,

25               said means for communicating, said means for  
electronically obtaining at least one code, said means

for indexing, said means for electronically obtaining an instruction, and said means for grouping in communication via an electronic communication system.

128. The system of claim 126, further  
5 comprising means for communicating to said second user order information chosen from a group consisting of:

- a. a supplier name;
- b. supplier contact information;
- c. a restaurant name;
- 10 d. restaurant contact information;
- e. order content;
- f. an electronic receipt; and
- g. any combination of at least two  
of a-f,

15 said means for communicating, said means for electronically obtaining at least one code, said means for indexing, said means for electronically obtaining an instruction, and said means for grouping in communication via an electronic communication system.

20 129. The system of claim 125, further comprising means for testing validity of said at least one code using at least one indication of validity, each code having a corresponding indication of validity only if said code is deemed valid,

25 said means for obtaining, said means for indexing, and said means for testing validity in communication via an electronic communication system.

130. The system of claim 129, wherein said means for testing comprises means for receiving said at least one indication of validity from a second user.

131. The system of claim 129, further 5 comprising means for warning a second user if one of said at least one code does not have a corresponding indication of validity,

10 said means for warning, said means for obtaining, said means for indexing, and said means for testing validity in communication via an electronic communication system.

132. The system of claim 125, further comprising means for screening said at least one order for violations of at least one accounting rule, said at 15 least one accounting rule requiring that an accounting criterion be satisfied, said accounting criterion chosen from a group consisting of:

- a. an accounting code;
- b. an accounting code range;
- c. a user name;
- d. a user email address;
- e. a user identification number;
- f. an employee name;
- g. an order date minimum;
- h. an order date maximum;
- i. an order date range;
- j. an order time minimum;

- k. an order time maximum;
- l. an order time range;
- m. an order identification number minimum;
- 5 n. an order identification number maximum;
- o. an order identification number range;
- 10 p. an order total amount minimum;
- q. an order total amount maximum;
- r. an order total amount range;
- s. an order tip amount minimum;
- t. an order tip amount maximum;
- u. an order tip amount range;
- 15 v. an order adjustment amount minimum;
- w. an order adjustment amount maximum;
- x. an order adjustment amount range; and
- 20 y. a combination of at least two of a-x,

said means for obtaining, said means for indexing, and said means for screening in communication via an electronic communication system.

133. The system of claim 132, wherein said means for screening comprises means for receiving said at least one accounting rule from a second user.

134. The system of claim 132, further comprising means for warning a second user one of said at least one order violates one of said at least one rule,

    said means for warning, said means for obtaining, said means for indexing, and said means for screening in communication via an electronic communication system.

135. A system for ordering a customized food item from a supplier, wherein a user selects said item and at least one option for customizing said item, said system comprising:

    means for electronically receiving an indication of said at least one option from said user via a user access device;

    means for displaying a graphical representation of said item as modified by said at least one option using said device; and

    means for transmitting an order describing said item as modified by said at least one option to said supplier,

25       said means for receiving, said means for displaying, and said means for transmitting in communication via an electronic communication system.

136. The system of claim 135, wherein said means for displaying comprises means for updating a display of said item to show said item as modified by said at least one option each time said user selects an  
5 option.

137. The system of claim 135, wherein, when said food item is a pizza, said at least one option is chosen from a group consisting of:

- 10                   a. a dough option;
- b. a cheese option;
- c. a sauce option;
- d. a topping option;
- e. a crust option; and
- 15                   f. a pizza size option.

138. The system of claim 137, wherein, when said option is a dough option, said means for electronically receiving comprises means for receiving an indication of at least one attribute of said dough  
20 option, said at least one attribute selected from a group consisting of:

- a. plain dough;
- b. whole wheat dough;
- c. sourdough;
- d. pan-style;
- e. deep-dish style; and
- 25                   f. a combination of at least two of a-e.

139. The system of claim 137, wherein, when  
said option is a cheese option, said means for  
electronically receiving comprises means for receiving  
an indication of at least one attribute of said cheese  
5 option, said at least one attribute selected from a  
group consisting of:

- a. a cheese amount;
- b. a cheese type; and
- c. a combination of a and b.

10 140. The system of claim 137, wherein, when  
said option is a sauce option, said means for  
electronically receiving comprises means for receiving  
an indication of at least one attribute of said sauce  
option, said at least one attribute selected from a  
15 group consisting of:

- a. a sauce amount;
- b. a sauce type; and
- c. a combination of a and b.

141. The system of claim 137, wherein, when  
20 said option is a crust option, said means for  
electronically receiving comprises means for receiving  
an indication of at least one attribute of said crust  
option, said at least one attribute selected from a  
group consisting of:

25

- a. soft; and
- b. crispy.

142. The system of claim 137, wherein, when said option is a topping option, said means for electronically receiving comprises means for receiving an indication of at least one attribute of said topping 5 option, said at least one attribute selected from a group consisting of:

- a. a pizza coverage fraction;
- b. a topping amount;
- c. a topping type; and
- d. a combination of at least two

10 of a-d.

143. The system of claim 137, wherein, when said option is a pizza size option, said means for electronically receiving comprises means for receiving 15 an indication of at least one attribute of said pizza size option, said at least one attribute selected from a group consisting of:

- a. small;
- b. medium; and
- c. large.

20

144. The system of claim 135, wherein said means for displaying comprises means for showing a graphical representation of said food item in a cooked 25 state.

145. The system of claim 137, wherein said means for transmitting comprises means for transmitting

a graphical representation of at least one layer of said pizza, each of said at least one layer corresponding to one of said at least one option, a superimposition of all of said at least one layer 5 corresponding to said pizza as modified by said at least one option, whereby a pizza chef can assemble said pizza in a layer-by-layer fashion.

146. The system of claim 137, wherein, when said food item is a pizza, said means for  
10 electronically receiving comprises:

means for electronically receiving an indication to divide said pizza into more than one section;

15 means for electronically receiving an indication of a selection of at least one of said more than one section; and

means for electronically receiving at least one instruction to apply one of said at least one option to said selection,

20 said means for receiving an indication to divide, said means for receiving an indication of a selection, and said means for receiving at least one instruction in communication via an electronic communication system.

25 147. The system of claim 146, wherein said means for electronically receiving an instruction comprises:

means for displaying a hotlink comprising a first graphical representation of said at least one option; and

5 means for displaying a second graphical representation of one of said at least one option when said user selects said option, said second graphical display replacing a prior graphical display corresponding to a cursor of said access device,

10 said means for displaying a hotlink and said means for displaying a second graphical representation in communication via an electronic communication system.

148. The system of claim 147, wherein said means for electronically receiving an instruction  
15 further comprises means for displaying a third graphical representation of said option when said user positions said cursor on said selection, said third graphical representation showing said option disposed in said selection,

20 said means for displaying a third graphical representation, said means for displaying a hotlink and said means for displaying a second graphical representation in communication via an electronic communication system.

25 149. A system for placing a group order with a supplier, said group order comprising a host order

selected by a host and at least one guest order selected by at least one guest, said system comprising:

means for forming a group order from said host order and said at least one guest order; and  
5 means for transmitting said group order to said supplier,

said means for forming and said means for transmitting in communication via an electronic communication system.

10 150. The system of claim 149, further comprising:

means for electronically obtaining said host order;  
means for electronically obtaining said 15 at least one guest order,  
said means for electronically obtaining said host order, said means for electronically obtaining said at least one guest order, said means for forming and said means for transmitting in communication via an 20 electronic communication system.

151. The system of claim 150, further comprising:

in response to receiving said host order, means for generating an invitation for each 25 guest specified by said host, said invitation inviting a respective guest to place a guest order; and

means for sending said invitation to each corresponding guest,

said means for generating, said means for sending, said means for electronically obtaining said 5 host order, said means for electronically obtaining said at least one guest order, said means for forming and said means for transmitting in communication via an electronic communication system.

152. The system of claim 151, wherein said 10 means for sending comprises means for sending an electronic invitation having a hotlink to an electronic form for placing said guest order.

153. The system of claim 151, further comprising means for obtaining an RSVP from each of 15 said at least one guest, said RSVP selected from a group consisting of:

- a. an invitation acceptance;
- b. an invitation rejection; and
- c. an unconfirmed response;

20 said means for obtaining an RSVP, said means for generating, said means for sending, said means for electronically obtaining said host order, said means for electronically obtaining said at least one guest order, said means for forming and said means for 25 transmitting in communication via an electronic communication system.

154. The system of claim 153, further comprising means for communicating said RSVP to said host,

    said means for obtaining an RSVP, said means  
5   for communicating said RSVP, said means for generating,  
    said means for sending, said means for electronically  
    obtaining said host order, said means for  
    electronically obtaining said at least one guest order,  
    said means for forming and said means for transmitting  
10   in communication via an electronic communication  
    system.

155. The system of claim 149, wherein said  
means for forming comprises means for communicating to  
said host an order status indication for each of said  
15   at least one guest, wherein said order status  
    indication is chosen from a group consisting of:

- a. order received; and
- b. order not received.

156. The system of claim 155, wherein said  
20   means for forming further comprises means for receiving  
    an indication from said host to transmit said group  
    order to said supplier,

    said means for communicating and said means  
    for receiving in communication via an electronic  
25   communication system.

157. A system for automatically placing a group order with a supplier, said group order comprising a host order selected by a host and at least one guest order selected by at least one guest, said at 5 least one guest selected by said host, said host order and said at least one guest order input into an ordering system, said group order transmitted to said supplier, said supplier receiving said group order, said system comprising:

10 means for electronically obtaining said host order and said at least one guest order;

means for forming a group order from said host order and said at least one guest order; and

means for transmitting said group order 15 to said supplier,

said means for electronically obtaining, said means for forming, and said means for transmitting in communication via an electronic communication system.

158. A system for reducing the risk of bad debt, said debt accruing to a provider of an on-line ordering system, said system conveying orders to said supplier, at least one of said orders comprising a price and a payment instruction instructing a financial institution to remit funds corresponding to said price, 25 said system comprising:

means for submitting said payment instruction to said financial institution;

means for receiving a first amount from said financial institution, said first amount equal to said funds reduced by a second amount; and

means for remitting to said supplier a  
5 third amount, said third amount equal to said funds reduced by a fourth amount, said fourth amount comprising at least said commission,

said means for submitting, said means for receiving, and said means for remitting in  
10 communication via an electronic communication system.

159. The system of claim 158, wherein:

said second amount comprises a first service charge;  
said fourth amount comprises a second  
15 service charge; and  
said system further comprises:  
means for waiting a predetermined period of time; and

means for investing said first  
20 amount during said period, so as to offset a loss if said first service charge exceeds said second service charge,

said means for waiting, said means for investing, said means for submitting, said means for  
25 receiving, and said means for remitting in communication via an electronic communication system.

160. The system of claim 158, wherein:

said second amount comprises a volume  
discounted service charge;

              said fourth amount comprises a second  
service charge; and

5              said system further comprises:

              means for selecting said second service  
charge such that said second service charge is less  
than said volume discounted service charge, whereby at  
least a portion of a benefit of a volume discount is  
10 passed from said service provider to said supplier,

              said means for selecting, said means for  
submitting, said means for receiving, and said means  
for remitting in communication via an electronic  
communication system.